

Claim Amendments

Please amend claims 1, 2 and 8 in the manner set forth in the following rewritten claims, and please add new claims 13-20, as set forth below.

1. (currently amended) A non-return valve comprising a valve member having a circumferential face and a channel having opposite ends and a mouth at each of the opposite ends, one of the mouths being sealable by a valve element capable of releasing said one mouth at a predetermined pressure in the channel higher than [a]an ambient pressure, said valve element comprising an O-ring manufactured from an elastic material, and said one mouth of the channel being located in a groove sealed by the valve element, and having circumferential edges provided on parts which are adjustable and fixable relative to each other, and a setting mechanism for steplessly setting the circumferential edges such that they are ~~lockable and~~ axially displaceable relative to each other, the setting mechanism further including a locking mechanism for locking the circumferential edges at a desired setting.

2. (currently amended) A non return valve according to claim 1 wherein the setting mechanism comprises a screw connection and wherein one of the circumferential edges is displaceable relative to an other circumferential edge, the locking mechanism comprising a lock nut that abuts the screw connection and locks it at a desired adjustment setting.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A non-return valve comprising a valve member having a circumferential face and a channel having first and second opposite ends and a first mouth at said first opposite end and a second mouth at said second opposite end;

a valve element for sealing said channel at one of said opposite ends, said valve element ~~and~~ comprising ~~a O-ring~~ an O-ring manufactured of an elastic material and capable of releasing said first mouth at a predetermined pressure in said channel higher than an ambient pressure;

said channel comprising a groove having opposing groove walls and wherein said first mouth of said channel is located in said groove and sealed by said valve element, said ~~O-ring~~ channel having circumferential edges adjustable and fixable relative to each other;

a setting mechanism for separately setting said circumferential edges such that said circumferential edges are lockable and displaceable relative to each other;

at least one further ~~ring~~ O-ring disposed in said groove and freely displaceable relative to said groove walls, whereby said groove is subdivided ~~in to~~ into two gaps, each of said gaps being shutoff by one of said plurality of rings.

9. (previously presented) A non-return valve according to claim 8 wherein said at least one further ring is an O-ring.

10. (previously presented) A non-return valve according to claim 8 wherein said further ring and said valve element each comprise an O-ring and wherein said further ring has a diameter greater than a diameter of said O-ring that forms said further ring.

11. (previously presented) The non-return valve according to claim 10 and further comprising a screening cap and disposed around said O-ring, connected to the valve member and having an interior in open communication with a surrounding environment.

12. (previously presented) A non-return valve in accordance with claim 8 and comprising a further mouth disposed between the mouths on either side of the channel, and a further O-ring for sealing said further mouth, and a further channel communicating with said further mouth, said further channel having a second mouth located outside said at least one channel.

13. (new) An adjustable non-return valve means for relieving pressure in an interior of a pressurized enclosure when the pressure reaches a predetermined limit, the valve means being adapted to be mounted on an opening in a wall of the enclosure, the valve means comprising:

an elongated, cylindrical valve member having axially spaced inner and outer portions, the inner portion being adapted to be in fluid communication with the interior of the enclosure, the outer portion being adapted to be positioned outside of the enclosure, the valve member including:

a cylindrical portion extending between the inner portion and the outer portion, the cylindrical portion having an internal opening therein that extends outwardly from an

open inner end to an outer end spaced inwardly from a closed outer end of the valve member, the valve member having at least one transverse opening extending from the internal opening to an open outlet in a side of the outer portion, the outer portion including an adjustable width circumferential exterior groove in fluid communication with the outlet of the transverse opening, the groove being formed by radially extending flanges positioned at opposite longitudinal sides of the outlet, at least one of the flanges being connected by a threaded connection to the cylindrical portion of the valve member, such that the flange is axially movable on the valve member by rotation of the threaded connection between the flange and the valve body; and

an elastically resilient O-ring seal mounted under tension on the valve body over the groove so as to resiliently close the outlet, the O-ring seal being in engagement with an outer periphery of the groove such that reducing the width of the groove by decreasing the distance between the flanges urges the O-ring radially outwardly, increasing the tension force exerted by the O-ring on the groove, thereby increasing the pressure at which the valve will relieve the pressure in the interior of the enclosure.

14. (new) An adjustable non-return valve as in claim 13 wherein the threaded connection comprises an externally threaded surface on the cylindrical portion of the valve member that mates with an internally threaded opening in the movable flange.

15. (new) An adjustable non-return valve as in claim 13 wherein the flanges have cylindrical outer surfaces adjacent planar opposing surfaces that are substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the valve member, the flanges thereby forming generally right angle

edges where they engage the O-ring, the right angle edges enhancing the sealing engagement between the valve member and the O-ring.

16. (new) An adjustable non-return valve as in claim 15 wherein the O-ring rides on top of the groove, such that if the width of the groove is adjusted to make the groove more narrow, the edges of the groove will engage a radially inward side of the O-ring and urge the O-ring to expand radially outwardly, increasing the pressure at which the valve relieves the pressure in the enclosure.

17. (new) An adjustable non-return valve as in claim 14 and further comprising locking means for locking the movable flange at a desired axial position on the valve member.

18. (new) An adjustable non-return valve as in claim 17 wherein the locking means comprises a lock nut threaded on the valve body adjacent the movable flange, such that rotation of the lock nut into locking engagement with the movable flange serves to lock the movable flange in a fixed position on the valve member.

19. (new) An adjustable non-return valve as in claim 13 wherein the movable flange is positioned axially inwardly from the other flange, the movable flange having a threaded cylindrical exterior portion that is engageable with a threaded opening in the wall of the enclosure for mounting the valve therein, the valve thereby being mountable in the enclosure by rotating the movable flange without exerting a relative torque between the valve member body and the movable flange.

20. (new) An adjustable non-return valve as in claim 13 wherein the O-ring seal has a generally circular cross sectional shape.